

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A back pack, comprising:
a base member for facing the back of a wearer having a rear wall and a raised peripheral rim, at least the peripheral rim being of flexible material;
an outer shell of rigid material for facing away from the back of the wearer, wherein the outer shell has an outer face and an integral peripheral rim bent towards the base member, and wherein the base member and the outer shell together define an enclosure for containing items to be carried; and
~~the base member and outer shell together defining an enclosure for containing items to be carried;~~
~~the outer shell having an outer face and an integral peripheral rim bent towards the base member; and~~
a zipper fastener secured between the peripheral rims of the base member and outer shell and extending around at least a major portion of the rims for releasably securing the base member and shell in a closed position and allowing access to the enclosure when released.
2. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 1, wherein the peripheral rims have a lower end, opposite sides, and an upper end, the zipper fastener extends around the sides and upper end of the peripheral rims, and a flexible member secures the lower ends of the rims together, whereby the outer shell and base member may be rotated away from one another into a fully open condition when the zipper fastener is released.
3. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 2, including a releasable retaining assembly between the base member and outer shell for holding the back pack in a partially open position.
4. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 1, including a first line of stitching

securing one side of the zipper fastener directly to the rigid rim of the outer shell, and a second line of stitching securing the other side of the zipper fastener directly to the flexible rim of the base member.

5. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rear wall of the base member has inner and outer layers of flexible material and an insert panel of rigid material between the inner and outer layers, the rigid insert panel being self-supporting and capable of retaining its shape.

6. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 5, wherein the insert panel has a series of spaced ribs.

7. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 5, wherein the insert panel is curved to follow the curvature of a wearer's back and has a concave outer face facing the wearer's back when the back pack is carried.

8. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 7, including a layer of foam material between the insert panel and outer layer of the rear wall.

9. (Currently amended) The back pack as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer shell is of ~~fiber reinforced~~ Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene(ABS) plastic material.

10. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 1, wherein shoulder straps are secured to the rear wall of the base member for supporting the back pack on the wearer's shoulders, the back pack having an upper end, lower end, and opposite sides, a carrying handle being secured to the upper end of the back pack.

11. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer shell has an upper end, a lower end, and opposite sides, the outer face of the shell having a convex curvature from the upper end to the lower end.

12. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 11, wherein the outer face of the shell has a raised, aerodynamically shaped hump adjacent the upper end of the shell and extending

downwardly towards the lower end of the shell.

13. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 1, including an add-on bag of smaller dimensions than the back pack for releasably securing over the outer shell.

14. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 13, wherein the add-on bag is of flexible material and has two spaced upper straps and two spaced lower straps, each strap having a releasable fastener, the rear wall of the base member having attachment members for said releasable fasteners, whereby each strap can be extended from the outer shell to the rear wall with the add-on bag placed over the outer shell and the fasteners secured to the respective attachment members in a four point attachment system.

15. (Original) The back pack as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer face of the outer shell is covered with a fabric material layer.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The back pack as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an aerodynamically shaped hump extending from the outer shell.